

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02600 211739Z

73

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 A-01 ABF-01 FSE-00 TRSE-00 EB-07

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R 211356Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5330

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 2600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, AR

SUBJ: MARCH COST OF LIVING

REF: B.A. 1738

1. OFFICIAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) INCREASED 37.6 PERCENT IN MAR, WHICH IS A RECORD MONTHLY LEVEL. DURING FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1976, CPI GREW 78.3 PERCENT RESULTING IN YEARLY RATE OF 566.3 PERCENT (MARCH 75/MARCH 76).

2. SECTORS RISING MOST RAPIDLY WITHIN MARCH CPI WERE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS (61.0 PERCENT) AND FOOD (42.8 PERCENT) FOLLOWED BY CLOTHING (29.8) AND GENERAL EXPENSES (28.0).

3. REPORTEDLY, PRICE INCREASES DURING LAST WEEK OF MARCH WERE PARTICULARLY SHARP. THE MAR CPI ON AN END MONTH BASES (I.E. COMPARING PRICES AT END MARCH AND END FEB 1976) WAS UP 51 PERCENT (OFFICIAL CPI LOWER BECAUSE IT BASED ON AVERAGE PRICES FOR MONTH). APRIL INCREASE AGAIN EXPECTED TO BE HIGH DUE PRICE DECONTROL PROGRAM INITIATED EARLY APRIL AND OTHER FACTORS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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